

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 20546 061907Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 061853Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3897

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, IT, GW

SUBJECT: ITALO-GERMAN BILATERAL

REF: BONN 19911

1. ITALIAN FONMIN GENERAL SECRETARY MANZINI WAS IN BONN ON DECEMBER 1 AND 2 FOR BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS FONOFF COUNTERPART STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF. THE VISIT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE LAST MAY, BUT WAS POSTPONED DUE TO GEHLHOFF'S HEART ATTACK. WHILE IT MIGHT HAVE SEEMED ANTI-CLIMACTIC TO HAVE THE FONMIN GENERAL SECRETARY VISIT BONN FOLLOWING FORLANI (REFTEL) AND THE EC COUNCIL, THE GERMANS NEVERTHELESS FOUND ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT WITH MANZINI AND WERE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. THEY CONSIDER MANZINI AN OLD-PRO DIPLOMAT WITH AN INSIDER'S KNOWLEDGE ON MANY TOPICS.

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PAGE 02 BONN 20546 061907Z

2. BILATERAL RELATIONS. FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE

GERMAN SIDE RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE "UGLY GERMAN" IMAGE IN ITALY. THE OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT THE PREDOMINANTLY LEFTIST ITALIAN PRESS WAS THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH THE TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED, NEITHER SIDE COULD OFFER ANY SOLUTION.

THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE KAPPLER AFFAIR WAS ALLUDED TO ONLY BRIEFLY. BOTH SETS OF OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED THAT THE QUESTION OF KAPPLER'S RELEASE WAS HEAVILY LADEN WITH POLITICAL EMOTION AND WAS BEYOND THEIR COMPETENCE AS NON-POLITICIANS. (COMMENT: THE DECEMBER 6 "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" REPORTED THAT THE GERMAN PROTESTANT BISHOPS HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO LEADING ITALIAN POLITICIANS REQUESTING MERCY FOR THE FORMER NAZI SS WAR CRIMINAL).

3. EC. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE ITALIANS SHARED THE GERMANS' GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF THE EC SUMMIT. MANZINI HAD ALSO AGREED, AS DID FORLANI, THAT IT WAS RIGHT POLITICALLY TO EXPAND THE EC, BUT THERE WERE MANY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME.

4. YUGOSLAVIA. MANZINI EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE NATIONALITIES PROBLEM IN YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID THAT THE POST-TITO LEADERSHIP WOULD BE WEAKER, AND THAT IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON THE WEST TO SUPPORT THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY.

5. ANDREOTTI VISIT. THE OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT PREMIER ANDREOTTI HAD ACCEPTED THE FRG'S INVITATION TO VISIT BONN ON JANUARY 17-18.  
STOESSEL

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